

Constitution is abridged when the state affirmatively sponsors a particular religious practice or prayer."

So let me reiterate that the resolution I am introducing today addresses only voluntary student prayer—not state-sponsored speech.

In one of her final rulings on this subject, Justice O'Connor held that the first amendment expresses our Nation's fundamental commitment to religious liberty by means of two provisions—one protecting the free exercise of religion, the other barring the establishment of religion.

"They were written," she said, "by the descendants of people who had come to this land precisely so that they could practice their religion freely." And, "by enforcing these two clauses," she said, "we have kept religion a matter for the individual conscience, not for the prosecutor or the bureaucrat."

We should keep it that way. We should keep it that way. We should keep religion a matter for the individual conscience. But does keeping religion a matter for the individual conscience mean that a schoolchild must stand silent, unable to turn to God for comfort or guidance in times of trial or heartache? No. No. No. Not even our Supreme Court has recognized that. Not every reference to God constitutes the impermissible establishment of religion.

Where would we be without recourse to prayer?

As we know, even the mighty King David sought guidance from above. In Psalm, 17, he implores:

Hear, O Lord, a just suit; attend to my outcry; harken to my prayer from lips without deceit . . . I call upon You for You will answer me, O God; incline Your ear to me; hear my word . . . keep me as the apple of your eye; hide me in the shadows of Your wings.

In our Nation's Capitol, just off the Rotunda, there is a small room called the Prayer Room. I was there when it was first dedicated. A small room called the Prayer Room was set aside in 1954 by the 83rd Congress to be used for private prayer and contemplation by Members of Congress. The room is open.

Have you ever been there? If you haven't, you ought to go to see that Prayer Room. I go to it still from time to time.

The room is open when Congress is in session though not open to the public. The room's focal point is a stained glass window that shows George Washington kneeling in prayer. Behind him are etched these words from Psalm 16:1: "Preserve me, o God, for in thee do I put my trust."

What right do we have to take from schoolchildren their right to pray a voluntary prayer when we preserve, protect, and defend and even create a separate room to enshrine that same right to ourselves here in the Senate?

St. Luke, the apostle, tells us that such efforts are as much in our own interest as they are in the best interests

of a child. Here is what St. Luke tells us:

Ask and you shall receive; seek and you shall find; knock and it shall be opened to you. For whoever asks, receives; whoever seeks, finds; whoever knocks is admitted. What father among you will give his son a snake if he asks for a fish, or hand him a scorpion if he asks for an egg? If you, with all your sins, know how to give your children good things, how much more will the Heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?

We must work to be certain that the free exercise clause remains as applicable and respected today as it was at the time it was conceived by the Framers.

We must guard its protection so that all Americans, including, yes, children, little children—suffer little children—retain their right freely to practice their religion. Let us make certain that every individual, including any child nestled in the West Virginia hills or anywhere else in America, can pray to God as they please.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of the joint resolution be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the joint resolution was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S.J. RES. 35

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled (two-thirds of each House concurring therein), That the following article is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which shall be valid to all intents and purposes as part of the Constitution when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within seven years after the date of its submission by the Congress:

"ARTICLE —

"Nothing in this Constitution, including any amendment to this Constitution, shall be construed to prohibit voluntary prayer or require prayer in a public school, or to prohibit voluntary prayer or require prayer at a public school extracurricular activity."

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 448—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF "NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE AWARENESS MONTH"

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska (for himself, Mr. CHAMBLISS, and Mr. CRAIG) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 448

Whereas life insurance is an essential part of a sound financial plan;

Whereas life insurance provides financial security for families by helping surviving members meet immediate and long-term financial obligations and objectives in the event of a premature death in their family;

Whereas approximately 68,000,000 United States citizens lack the adequate level of life insurance coverage needed to ensure a secure financial future for their loved ones;

Whereas life insurance products protect against the uncertainties of life by enabling individuals and families to manage the financial risks of premature death, disability, and long-term care;

Whereas individuals, families, and businesses can benefit from professional insurance and financial planning advice, including an assessment of their life insurance needs; and

Whereas numerous groups supporting life insurance have designated September 2006 as "National Life Insurance Awareness Month" as a means to encourage consumers to—

(1) become more aware of their life insurance needs;

(2) seek professional advice regarding life insurance; and

(3) take the actions necessary to achieve financial security for their loved ones: Now therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of "National Life Insurance Awareness Month"; and

(2) calls on the Federal Government, States, localities, schools, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and the citizens of the United States to observe the month with appropriate programs and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 449—COMMENDING THE EXTRAORDINARY CONTRIBUTIONS OF MAX FALKENSTIEN TO THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS AND THE STATE OF KANSAS

Mr. BROWNBACK (for himself and Mr. ROBERTS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 449

Whereas Max Falkenstien has served as a broadcaster for the basketball and football programs at The University of Kansas for 60 consecutive years, and will retire after the 2005–2006 men's basketball season;

Whereas Mr. Falkenstien broadcasted his first men's basketball and football games for the Kansas Jayhawks in 1946, after serving 35 months in the Army Air Corps;

Whereas Mr. Falkenstien has received honors from—

(1) the College Football Hall of Fame, which awarded him the Chris Schenkel Award for Broadcasting Excellence;

(2) the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, which named him the winner of the 15th Annual Curt Gowdy Electronic Media Award;

(3) the Kansas Association of Broadcasters, which awarded him the Distinguished Service Award;

(4) Baker University, which presented him with the Lifetime Achievement Award; and

(5) The University of Kansas Alumni Association, which awarded him the Ellsworth Medallion;

Whereas Mr. Falkenstien is a member of—

(1) the Kansas Broadcasters Hall of Fame; and

(2) the Kansas Sports Hall of Fame;

Whereas Mr. Falkenstien was the first—

(1) inductee into the Lawrence High School Hall of Honor; and

(2) media member of The University of Kansas Athletic Hall of Fame; and

Whereas the State of Kansas has been privileged to have the benefit of 60 years of dedicated service provided by Max Falkenstien to The University of Kansas: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the extraordinary contributions of Max Falkenstien to The University of Kansas and the State of Kansas;

(2) congratulates him for 60 years of outstanding service;

(3) offers the best wishes of the Senate for his future endeavors; and